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THE

SEXTON'S MONITOR,

AND

DORCHESTER CEMETERY MEMORIAL.



BOSTON:
PRINTED BY ALFRED MUDGE,

No. 21 School Street.

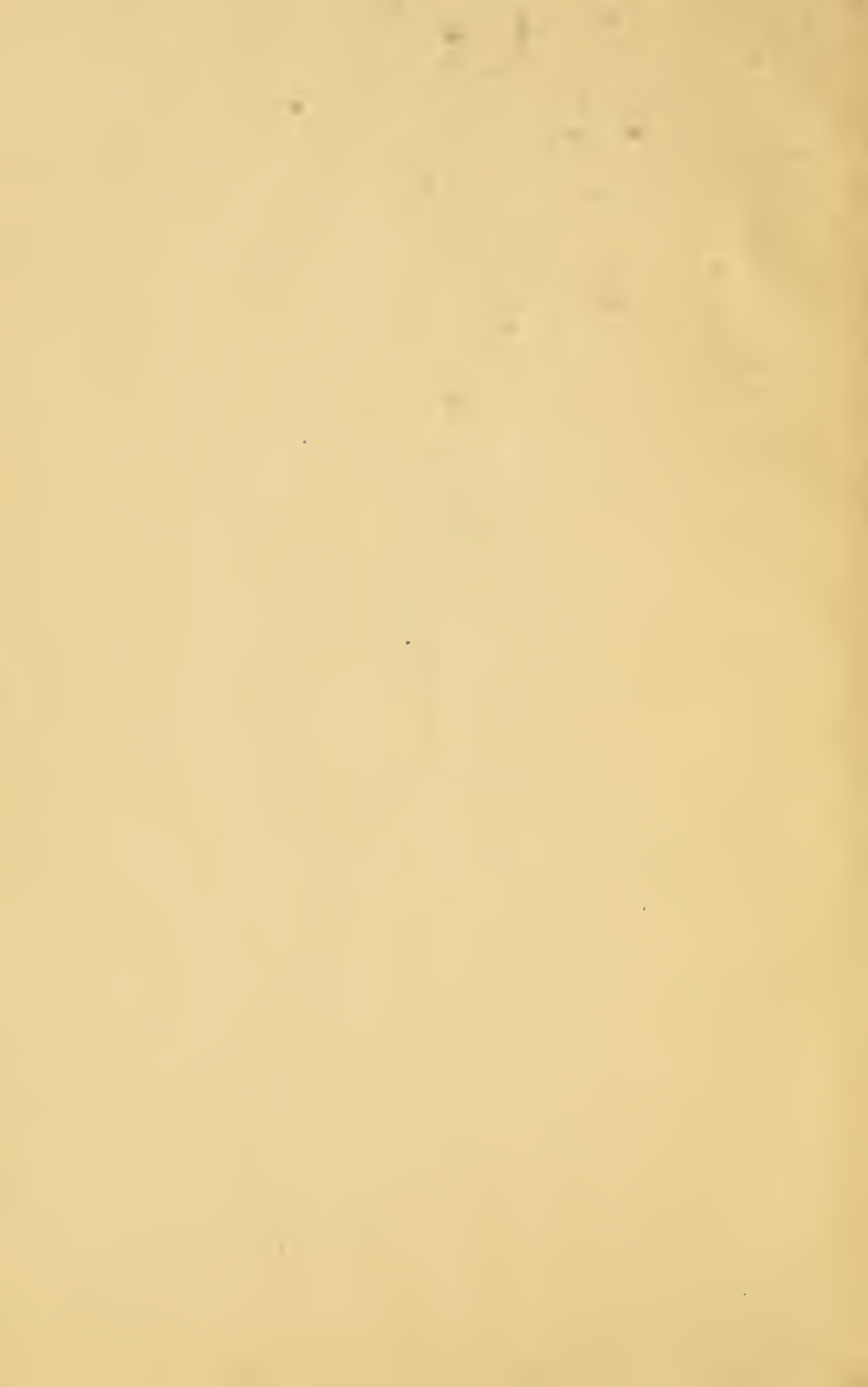
1845.





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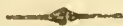


THE

SEXTON'S MONITOR,

AND

DORCHESTER CEMETERY MEMORIAL.



"Theron among his travels found
A broken statue on the ground,
And searching onwards as he went,
He traced a ruin'd Monument;
Mould, moss, and shades had overgrown
The sculpture of the crumbling stone;
Yet, e'er he pass'd, with much ado,
He guessed and spelt out SCIPIO."

Daniel Everett

THIRD EDITION.

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY ALFRED MUDGE,

No. 21 School Street.

1845.

DEDICATION.

TO REV. THADDEUS MASON HARRIS, D. D.,
Pastor of the First Church in Dorchester.

Permit me, Dear Sir, to inscribe this little Collection to you, in token of my affectionate regard, and of my gratitude for the benefit I have derived from your preaching.

I was your Sexton from April 1st, 1799, to October 23d, 1836, a period of thirty-seven years and six months, and have attended 1279 funerals. X

That it may be many years before you, or your family may need my services in this solemn vocation, is the sincere wish of your friend,

DANIEL DAVENPORT.

Dorchester, January 1, 1838.

now 2594

146265.

PREFACE.

My profession as Sexton, has made me familiar with the Burying Ground ; and I observed several very ancient inscriptions on Monuments and Grave Stones, which were becoming illegible from the mouldering effects of time. Being desirous that they should be preserved, I have copied them, together with some which I thought curious and interesting ; and, that others might have the perusal of them, I have for a long time proposed to have them printed. I have arranged them nearly in the order of their dates ; and have added some from Grave Yards which I have visited in other places.

I have called the little book “THE SEXTON’S MONITOR,” because, while his work in digging graves reminds him of death, the reading of Monumental Inscriptions repeats to him the solemn lessons of warning ; and because I have ventured myself to give some serious and well attended advice.

I hope that all my readers will excuse any imperfections that they may discover ; and remember him in their prayers, who, having buried others, must be buried himself,—for, in the words of Job, “*If I wait, the grave is in my house.*”

D. D.

THE BURIAL GROUND IN DORCHESTER.

This is one of the most ancient in Massachusetts proper, and its grave-stones have been frequently consulted by antiquarians for historical and biographical notices, and by the curious for their quaint epitaphs. With pious regard for the memory of the venerated Puritan settlers, and the past generations of the honored dead, some inhabitants of the town have lately caused the dilapidated monuments to be repaired and set up, and the rank weeds and brambles which had overgrown the humble hillocks, to be cleared out, to give place to some ornamental plants,—emblems of mortal life ; and evergreen trees,—emblems of the immortal. The subscription to defray the expense of such improvements in the condition of this place of graves, though applied to “garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,” extended not to “build again the tombs of the prophets ;” as it was known that of the *nine* ministers who, with their flocks, had “gone down to the congregation of the dead,” there were only *two* for whom monumental memorials had been raised, namely, Rev. Richard Mather, in 1669, and Rev. Josiah Flint, in 1680. Several months ago, however, the descendants of the honorable Moses Everett caused a tablet to be set up, inscribed with his name and those of the deceased members of his family, on which is mentioned his death in 1813, and that he was in the ministry from 1774 to 1793. It is, also, an affecting consideration, that no minister of the town has died in office within *one hundred and seven years*.

MONITORY REMARKS.

ADDRESSED TO SEXTON'S IN GENERAL.

MY FRIENDS :—We are called to bury the dead. A serious calling indeed ! It ought to make us very thoughtful and considerate. When we dig the grave, or prepare the tomb, and toll the mournful bell, or lead the solemn procession to the house appointed for all the living, and at last cover up the dark abode of mortality with earth, and spread the sods of the valley over it,—we should think that “Death is the end of all men, and the living should lay it to heart.” And we, of all others, must be very insensible if so often called to these funeral services, we are not seriously impressed by them.

Our assistance, also, is needed, and on many occasions wished for in preference to that of others ; particularly for laying out the corpse, and placing it in the coffin, and in making the arrangements for the funeral and the interment. Therefore we ought to be sober, and aim so to conduct, as by our helpfulness and tenderness, to relieve the feelings of those who employ us, and secure their good opinion.

We ought to pay great attention to the common ceremonies of funerals, for the minds of the mourners are very tender at such times, and they look for indulgence and sympathetic respect ; and we must be careful not to wound or hurt the feelings of any intentionally. Likewise we must aim to be punctual and prompt in our attendance, and not presume to dictate and give orders, unless we perceive it to be necessary, and expected of us, but to follow the directions which are given.

We should attend the prayer with devout seriousness, that we may have our hearts properly affected by the solemn occasion, and that we may be more and better prepared for the committing of dust to dust, which we are expected to do with great solemnity.

I need not to say any more, but to wish you all temporal and spiritual good ; and as we ere long must have some one to commit our lifeless remains to the silent grave, we may be prepared to be laid down there in peace, with a well-founded hope of a blessed resurrection and eternal life. Adieu !

EXTRACTS.

“ Farewell, my friends, I must be gone,
I have no home nor stay with you ;
I'll take my staff and travel on,
Till I a better world can view.

“ I'll march to Canaan's happy land,
I'll rest on Canaan's peaceful shore,
Where real pleasures never end,
And mortal troubles come no more.”

“ O lovely appearance of death,
No sight upon earth is so fair ;
Not all the gay pageants that breathe,
Can with a dead body compare.”

“ When the vale of death appears,
Faint and cold this mortal clay ;
Kind forerunner soothe my fears,
Light me through the darksome way,
And break the shades, and usher in eternal day !”

“ Think, oh ye, who fondly languish
O'er the graves of those you love ;
While your bosoms throb with anguish,
They are warbling hymns above.”

THE GARDEN OF GRAVES.

Come with me to the Garden,
That sacred spot of earth,
Where ne'er is heard the airy song,
Nor the wanton sound of mirth.

There sleep the Widow and Fatherless,
Deep beneath the sod,
And there the bud of innocence
Beside "the man of God."

And there is the grave of beauty,
The form that was once divine ;
There grows the weeping willow,
And the yew-tree shades the shrine.

There is the bed of the Lover,
The cold sod wraps his head ;
His bower of bliss is changed,
And all its gay hopes fled.

And there too sleeps the Tyrant,
Despoiled of earthly power ;
His robes of state and grandeur,
The worms of earth devour.

But around the lonely garden,
The Spring of Time yet blooms ;
And fair, though fading blossoms
Exhale their rich perfumes.

Then come with me to the garden,
Where the race of mortals lie.
Like seed that's buried in the earth
To grow above the sky.

INSCRIPTION ON A BURYING-GROUND.

“ The resting-place of the dead, waiting for the living.”

BY W. M. HETHERINGTON, A. M.

Here rest the dead ! silent and deep
And dark and narrow is their home ;
Here their long lonesome vigils keep,
Waiting but till the living come ;
Morn dawns not in its beauty here,
No lustre-noonday suns can shed,
Nor star-beams through the dim night peer
That wraps the cheerless dead.

Art thou a chief of daring breast,
Of lofty brow and kindling eye,
Is thine the flaming meteor-crest
That bursts through battle's lurid sky ?
O warrior ! doff thine eagle plume,
Resign thy war-steed, brand and spear ;
Disarmed, imprisoned in the tomb,
Thy comrades wait thee here.

Art thou a king, a hero, one
At the dread bidding of whose word
The grizzly War-Fiend buckles on
His panoply, and bears his sword ?
Halt, mighty conqueror ! blench thy cheek,
Quell the red terrors of thine eye ;
Here earth's proud Thunderers, silent, weak,
To wait thy coming, lie.

Art thou a man of loftiest mind,
Statesman, philosopher, or bard ?
One whose great soul can only find
In native worth its high reward ?
Oh ! pluck the bright wreath from thy brow,
And leave it in the hall of fame ;
Here dwell the glorious dead, each now
The shadow of a name.

Art thou a youth of gentle breath ?
One fond to roam by rippling streams,
With love's delicious woes opprest,
And haunted with fantastic dreams ?
Shake the soft fetters from thy heart,
Dreamer ! the partners of thy fate,
Struck now by no soft Cupid's dart,
Thy coming here await.

Woman ! young mother ! tender wife !
Ye dearest forms of mortal birth ;
Sweet soothers of poor human life !
Fair angels of the happy hearth ;
O matron grave ! O widow drear ?
Whate'er thou art, cherished or lone,
The dead beloved await thee here,—
The grave will have its own !

'Thou, too, bright blooming beauty ! thou,
The load-star of a thousand eyes !
That liquid eye, that marble brow,
That cheek where smile Morn's loveliest dyes,
Oh ! veil those charms ! they too must share,
Alas ! the universal doom ;
The beauteous dead where are they ! where ?—
They wait thee in the tomb !

Here rest the dead ! here wait the hour
When the last sob of living breath
Shall pass away beneath the power
Of that grim phantom, mightiest Death,—
They rest in hope till He
Who died, and lives for aye, shall come,
To give them immortality,
And call them to his home !

MEMORIALS.

DORCHESTER, in Massachusetts, called by the Indians *Mattapan*, was settled by emigrants from England, the beginning of June, 1630. They had two ministers, the Rev. JOHN WARHAM, and the Rev. JOHN MAVERICK. Most of the first settlers removed, and began a settlement on Connecticut river, in the latter part of 1635, and called the place Windsor, and there Mr. WARHAM died, April 1, 1670. MR. MAVERICK died in Boston, February 3d, 1636, aged 60.

A new church was gathered at Dorchester, August 23d, 1636, and Rev. RICHARD MATHER was chosen teacher. He died April 22d, 1669, aged 73.

In the latter part of the year 1639, the Rev. JONATHAN BURR was settled colleague with Mr. Mather, and died August 9th, 1641, aged 37.

Rev. JOHN WILSON was ordained as assistant to Mr. Mather in 1649 ; and, after two years, was removed to Medfield, where he was pastor forty years, and died August 23, 1691.

Rev. JOSIAH FLINT was ordained Dec. 27, 1671 ; and died September 16, 1680, aged 35.

Rev. JOHN DANFORTH was ordained June 28, 1682 ; and died May 26, 1730, aged 78.

Rev. JONATHAN BOWMAN was ordained Nov. 5, 1729 ; continued the pastoral office till December 14, 1773, and died March 30, 1775, aged 68.

Rev. MOSES EVERETT was ordained September 28, 1774 ; continued pastor until January 14, 1793 ; and deceased March 25, 1813, aged 63.

Rev. THADDEUS MASON HARRIS was ordained Oct. 23, 1793.

Rev. NATHANIEL HALL was ordained as colleague with Thaddeus Mason Harris, D. D., July 16, 1835.

Rev. THADDEUS MASON HARRIS, D. D., delivered his farewell discourses on Sunday, October 23, 1836, and removed to Boston, where he died April 3, 1842.

A Second Church was gathered in the town Jan. 1, 1808 ; and the Rev. JOHN CODMAN was ordained pastor December 7, 1808.

A Third Church was gathered in Dorchester June 25, 1817, and the Rev. EDWARD RICHMOND installed Pastor.

LIST OF ELDERS AND DEACONS OF THE FIRST CHURCH.

GEORGE MINOT was a Ruling Elder for 30 years, and died Dec. 24, 1671, aged 78.

JOHN WISWALL was Deacon from 1636, and a Ruling Elder several years ; but of the time of his death there is no account.

HENRY WITHINGTON died Feb. 2d, 1666, aged 79 ; having been a Ruling Elder 29 years.

JAMES HUMPHREYS, ordained Deacon June 3, 1666 ; and Ruling Elder March 13, 1668 ; died May 12, 1686, aged 78.

JAMES BLAKE, ordained Deacon June 30, 1672 ; and Ruling Elder March 1, 1686 ; died June 28, 1700, aged 77.

SAMUEL CLAP ordained Ruling Elder Feb. 3, 1701 ; died Oct. 16, 1708, aged 74.

SAMUEL TOPLIFF, having been Deacon nine years, was ordained Ruling Elder Feb. 3, 1702 ; and died Oct. 16, 1722, aged 77.

HOPESTILL CLAP was Deacon seventeen years, and Ruling Elder ten years ; and died September 2, 1719, aged 72.

DANIEL PRESTON, chosen Deacon May 23, 1686, and Ruling Elder in the year 1719, died March 13, 1726, aged 77.

EDWARD CLAP, died January 8, 1664, having been Deacon 26 years.

RICHARD WITHINGTON ordained Deacon March 1, 1669.

NICHOLAS CLAP.

SAMUEL CLAP.

JOHN CAPEN, ordained Deacon Feb. 13, 1656, and died April 4, 1692, aged 80

DANIEL PRESTON, died Nov. 10, 1707, aged 86.

JOHN BLAKE, ordained Deacon Feb. 16, 1717, and died March 2, 1718.

JAMES BLAKE, ordained Deacon June 4, 1672, and died Oct. 22, 1732, aged 80.

JONATHAN CLAP, ordained Deacon March 1, 1719, and died Jan. 2, 1724.

HOPESTILL CLAP, ordained Deacon May 3, 1723, and died Dec. 26, 1759, aged 80.

NATHANIEL TOPLIFF, ordained Deacon May 3d, 1723, and died Dec. 15, 1751, aged 59.

RICHARD HALL, chosen Deacon May 1, 1752, and died March 13, 1776, aged 70.

ABIJAH WHITE, chosen Deacon Oct. 17, 1756, and died Oct. 5, 1804, aged 87.

SAMUEL TOPLIFF, chosen Deacon Sept. 1764, and died Sept. 18, 1807, aged 79.

EDWARD PIERCE, chosen Deacon Sept. 28, 1777, and died Feb. 20, 1818, aged 83.

JAMES HUMPHREYS, chosen Deacon December 17, 1799.*

EBENEZER CLAP, chosen Deacon Jan. 8, 1809.*

HENRY HUMPHREY, chosen Deacon December 1, 1833.*

* Now living.

TABLE OF THE NUMBER OF DEATHS ANNUALLY.

[From 1630 to the end of 1656, the yearly number of deaths cannot be ascertained; probably they did not exceed five a year.]

Year.	Deaths.	Year.	Deaths.	Year.	Dths.	Year.	Dths.
1657	17	1704	12	1751	3 6 ^g	1798	34 ^t
1658	9	1705	6 ^c	1752	51 ^h	1799	38
1659	7	1706	10	1753	26	1800	41
1660	6	1707	12	1754	18	1801	44
1661	7	1708	14	1755	20	1802	61 ^u
1662	5	1709	11	1756	19	1803	50 ^v
1663	5	1710	10	1757	19	1804	53
1664	8	1711	14	1758	18	1805	61
1665	5	1712	16	1759	28	1806	67
1666	6	1713	13	1760	28	1807	38
1667	7	1714	22	1761	53	1808	56
1668	5	1715	13	1762	26	1809	46
1669	6	1716	10	1763	25	1810	45
1670	4	1717	15	1764	23	1811	55
1671	5	1718	23	1765	24	1812	43
1672	3	1719	11	1766	38	1813	52
1673	6	1720	8	1767	29	1814	30
1674	4	1721	12 ^d	1768	26	1815	37
1675	13	1722	14	1769	29	1816	30
1676	23	1723	22	1770	33	1817	60
1677	12	1724	15	1771	18	1818	39
1678	20	1725	13	1772	23	1819	42
1679	18	1726	9	1773	24	1820	54
1680	8	1727	6	1774	26 ⁱ	1821	50
1681	17	1728	10	1775	71 ^j	1822	50
1682	12	1729	9	1776	56 ^k	1823	49
1683	19	1730	11	1777	32 ^l	1824	68
1684	8	1731	16	1778	42 ^m	1825	104
1685	4	1732	19	1779	19	1826	58
1686	7	1733	13	1780	18	1827	49
1687	10	1734	15	1781	13	1828	56
1688	20	1735	18	1782	17	1829	51
1689	13	1736	20	1783	27	1830	51
1690	33 ^a	1737	18	1784	25 ⁿ	1831	72
1691	20	1738	13	1785	18	1832	63
1692	16	1739	21	1786	25 ^o	1833	68
1693	17	1740	20	1787	29	1834	55
1694	12	1741	12	1788	11	1835	64
1695	9 ^b	1742	10	1789	16 ^p	1836	91
1696	7	1743	27	1790	35	1837	66
1697	6	1744	22	1791	32	1838	76
1698	7	1745	26	1792	36 ^q	1839	72
1699	11	1746	27	1793	39	1840	66
1700	15	1747	36	1794	19 ^r	1841	77
1701	19	1748	28	1795	17 ^s	1842	92
1702	14	1749	29	1796	22	1843	83
1703	8	1750	37	1797	21	1844	82

NOTES AND REFERENCES TO THE PRECEDING PAGE.

a. In Mr. Blake's Manuscript Annals is this record, "In my fathers' book there is a memorandum in the account he kept, that from the first of April, 1690, unto the first of July, 1691, that is, one year and four months, there died in Dorchester *fifty-seven persons*, thirty-three of them of the small-pox, the rest of a fever, and most of them of a middle age. About the same time, 1690, lost at sea 46 soldiers that went to Canada. In all 103."

b. This year died Mrs. Anne Pierce, widow of Mr. Robert Pierce, being 104 years old.

c. Feb. 6, 1705, died the widow Wyat, aged 94; "having as a midwife, assisted at the birth of one thousand, one hundred and more children."

d. This year, 1721, the small-pox went through Boston, and it was in twenty-nine families in this town, whereof thirteen persons died, two of them strangers.

e. In 1732, several aged people died of a prevailing epidemic cold.

f. In 1740, died Mr. John Trescott, aged 90, and his wife aged 90.

g. In 1751, twelve persons died between Nov. 22, and Dec. 24.

h. In 1752, several died of an epidemic plurisy and nervous fever; twenty in January.

i. In 1774, several aged persons died, namely, one of 95, two of 86, one of 85, one of 84, one of 73, one of 62, and one of 58 years of age.

j. In 1775 more aged persons died, namely, one (Mr. Israel Leadbetter,) of 97, one of 83, one of 86, two of 72, one of 67, and one of 64 years of age. This year also 40 soldiers were buried.

k. In 1776, four died of the small-pox.

l. In 1777, twelve died of the small-pox.

m. In 1778, nine died of the small-pox.

n. In 1784, several aged persons died, namely, one of 87, one of 86, one of 84, one of 82, one of 76, one of 73, and one of 72 years of age.

o. In 1786, died one person aged 86, and one 71.

p. In 1789, one person died, aged 90, one 84, and one 75.

q. In 1792, about 600 persons had the small-pox this year; six the natural way, of whom three died, and nine died of those that had been inoculated.

r. In 1794, died one person aged 86, one 83, four 78, and one 77.

s. In 1795, died one person aged 97, one 88, and two 78.

t. In 1798, died aged persons, 85, 83, 81, 78, 71, and 70; and fifteen children under three years of age.

u. In 1802, aged persons 87, 77, two of 72, one of 71, and one of 70. Eight persons died of a malignant fever, six of them children of Mr. Belcher, between the ages of 14 and 30.

v. In 1803, aged persons, 86, 85, two of 80, one of 78, 76, 55, 74, 70.

RECAPITULATION.

[UP TO THE END OF 1844.]

From June 1630 to the end of the year 1656, being 25 years and 7 months, there died, perhaps,	100
From 1657 to the end of 1844,	5280
<hr/>	
Whole number of deaths, since the first } settlement of the town, }	5380
The smallest number of deaths in any one } year since 1793, was in 1797, being }	17
The largest number was in 1825, 9 in the } First, 30 in the Second, and 65 in the } Third Parish. }	104
The population in 1792 was	1722
The population in 1820 was	3684
The population, as taken in 1837, is	4564

During forty-four years of Dr. Harris's ministry, there died 2156, being an average number of forty-nine deaths a year.

CEMETERY MEMORIAL.

PART I.

"Let's talk of Graves, and Worms, and Epitaphs;
Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes
Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth."—SHAKSPEARE.

EPITAPHS.

[COPIED FROM THE OLD YARD IN DORCHESTER.]

I.

Here lies the bodies of Mr. BARNARD CAPEN, and Mrs. Jane Capen, his wife. He died Nov. 8, 1638, aged 76 years; and she died March 26, 1653, aged 75 years.

II.

[On two children lying in one grave, covered with a flat stone, but so broken that the upper part, which probably bore the name of the parents, was gone.]

ABEL, his offering accepted is;
His body to the grave, his soul to bliss.
On October twenty, and no more,
In the year sixteen hundred 44.

SUBMIT submitted to her heavenly king,
Being a flower of the eternal spring;
Near 3 years old she died in heaven to wait,
The year was sixteen hundred 48.

III.

[Taken from a stone which had been broken into forty-five pieces.]

Here lies three CLERKS, their accounts are even.
Entered on earth, carried up to heaven.

[NOTE. This is a very ingenious reference to mercantile affairs, and the business of a clerk, to *enter*

accounts in the *day-book*, and *carry them up to the Ledger* ; it is casting up the reckoning for Time, and striking the balance for Eternity.]

IV.

SUBMIT submitted down to dust,
Her soul ascends up to the just :
At near ——— old she did resign,
Her soul's gone to Christ, year '59.

V.

On the Honorable Major General HUMPHREY ATHERTON, who died Sept. 16, 1661. He was killed by falling from his horse on returning from Boston.

Here lies our Captain and Major of Suffolk was withal,
A Godly Magistrate was he, and Major General.
Two troops of horse with him here came, such worth
his love did crave,
Ten companies of foot also, mourning marched to his
grave ;
Let all that read be sure to keep the faith as he has done ;
With Christ he lives now crown'd, his name was HUM-
PHREY ATHERTON.

VI.

D. O. M. Sacer.

RICHARDUS hic dormit MATHRUS,
(Sed non totus, nec mora diuturna)
Lætatus genuise pares.

Incertum est utrum Doctior an Melior.

Animum et gloria non quæunt humari.

Divinely rich and learned RICHARD MATHER,
Sons like him, prophets great, rejoic'd this father.
Short time his sleeping dust 's here's covered down—
Not so his ascended spirit or renown.

V. D. M. in Angl. XVI annos. In Dor. N. A. 34 an.
Ob. Apr. 22, 1669 ; Otatis suæ 73.

The following lines were composed for him :

RICHARD MATHER : anagram, “ a third charmer,”
Third in New-England's Dorchester
Was this ordained Minister ;

Second to none for fruitfulness
Abilities and usefulness.

Divine his charms, years seven times seven :
Wise to win souls from earth to heaven.
Prophet's reward he gains above
But great's our loss by his remove.
Sacred to God his servant Richard Mather,
Sons like him good and great did call him father ;
Hard to discern the difference in degree,
'Twixt his bright learning and high piety.
Short time his slumbering dust lies covered down,
So can't his soul, nor his deserv'd renown.
From his birth six lustres and a jubilee
To his repose : but labour'd hard in thee
O Dorchester, for more than thirty years
His sacred dust with thee thine honour bears.

VII.

[On an ancient School Master in Dorchester, who died Feb. 24, 1674, aged 81. Written by himself.]

WILLIAM POLE.

Ho Passenger ! its worth thy pains to stay,
And take a dead man's lesson by the way.
I was what now thou art, and thou shalt be
What I am now, what odds 'twixt me and thee.
Now go thy way, but stay, take one word more,
Thy staff, for aught thou knowst, stands next the door
Death is the door, the door of heaven or hell :
Be warn'd, be arm'd, believe, repent, Farewell !

VIII.

John Cornel, aged 64 years, died July 31, 1675.

IX.

ELS LEKE	THOMAS LEKE
aged 80 year	aged 70 years
deceased Oct. 20.	deceased Oct. 27.
1678.	

X.

Rev. JOSIAH FLINT, died Sept. 15, 1680, aged 35.
A man of God he was, so great and good,
His brightest worth was hardly understood.

So much of God and Christ in him did dwell,
 In grace and holiness he did excel.
 An honor and an ornament hereby
 Both to the Churches and the Ministry.
 Most zealous in the work of reformation
 To save his self-destroying generation.
 With courage strove 'gainst all this peoples sin,
 He spent his strength, his life, his soul therein.
 Consumed with holy zeal for God, for whom
 He lived and died a kind of Martyrdom.

If men will not lament, their hearts not break,
 No wonder this lamenting stone doth speak.
 His tomb-stone cries repent, and souls to save
 Doth preach repentance from his very grave.
 'Gainst sinners doth a lasting record lie
 This monument to his blest memory.

Psal. cxii, 6. Prov. x, 7.

XI.

The ingenious Mathematician and Printer, Mr. JOHN
 FOSTER, aged 33, died Sept. 9, 1681.

Astra colis vivens, moriens superæ thera FOSTER
 Scande precor, cœlum metiri disce supremum ;
 Metior atque meum est, emit mihi dives JESUS,
 Nec tenior quicquam nisi grates solvere.

[On the foot-stone was this inscription.]
 "Ars illi sua census erat."—OVID.
 Skill was his cash.

XII.

Miss MARY BRADLAY, aged 17, died March 8, 1684.

XIII.

Mr. NATHAN BREADLEY, aged 70, died July 26, 1701.

XIV.

In memory of Mrs. ANN, the wife of Mr. ROBERT
 PIERCE, died December the 31, 1695, aged about 104
 years.

XV.

Mrs. THANKFUL BAKER, relict of Mr. JOHN BAKER, aged 58 years, deceased the 29th of Jan. 1697-8.

XVI.

Elder James HUMPHREYS, who died May 12, 1686, aged 78.

Inclosed within this shrine is sacred dust,
And only waits for the rising of the just.
Most useful while he lived ; adorned his station,
Even to old age he serv'd his generation :
Since his death thought of with great veneration.

How great a blessing this Ruling Elder he
Unto the Church and Town and Pastors three.
Mather he first did by him help receive ;
Flint he did next of burdens much relieve ;
Renowned Danforth he did help with skill.
Esteemed high by all ;—bear fruit until
Yielding to death his glorious seat did fill.*

* The initial letters make an acrostic on his name.

XVII.

GULIELMUS STOUGHTONUS, armiger
Provinciæ Massachusettensis in Nova Anglia Legatus,
deinde Gubernator ;
Nec-non Curiae in eadem Provincia Superioris
Justiciarius Capitalis,
Hic jacet.
Vir conjugii nescius,
Religione sanctus,
Virtute clarus,
Doctrina celebris,
Ingenio acutus,
Sanguine et animo pariter illustris ;
Æquatatis amator,
Legum propugnator,
Collegii Stoughtoniani fundator,
Literarum et Literatorum fautor, celeberrimus,
Impietatis et vitii hostis acerrimus.
Hunc Rhetores amant facudum,
Hunc Scriptores norunt elegantem,
Hunc Philosophi quærunt sapientem,

Hunc Doctores laudunt theologum,
Hunc Pii venerantur austerum,
Hunc omnes mirantur ! omnibus ignotum.

Omnibus licet notum.

Quid plura viator ? Quem perdidimus,—

STOUGHTONUM ?

Heu !

Satis dixi ; urgent lachrymæ ;

Sileo.

Vixit annos septuaginta.

Septimo die Julii Anno Salutis 1701

Cecidit.

Heu ! Heu ! Qualis Luctus !

XVIII.

[Copied from a grave-stone on the north-westerly part of the first laid out burying-ground.]

Mrs. MIRIAM WOOD.

formerly wife of Mr. JOHN WOOD.

who died October 19, 1706.

An ancient School Mistress.

A woman well beloved of all
Her neighbours for her care of small
Folks education, their numbers being great,
That when she died she scarcely left her mate.
So wise, discreet was her behaviours
That she was well esteemed by neighbors.
She lived in love with all to die,
So let her rest to eternity.

XIX.

[On Deacon JAMES BLAKE. NOTE.—He languished about seven years with an ulcerous leg, very painful, but at last died with an epidemic cold, which carried off many aged people.]

Seven years strong pain do end at last,
His weary days and nights are past.
The way was rough, the end is peace ;
Short pain give place to endless ease.

XX.

On Elder HOPESTILL CLAP who deceased September 2d, 1719, aged 72.

His dust waits till the Jubilee
Then shall shine brighter than the sky ;
Shall meet and join to part no more,
His soul that's glorified before.

Pastors and Churches happy be
With Ruling Elders such as he ;
Present useful, absent wanted,
Lived desired, and died lamented.

XXI.

Here lies interred the body of Mr. JONATHAN MASON, late of St. Christophers. He was the third son of Mr. Arthur, and Mrs. Joanna Mason, of Boston. He died at Stoughton house May 9, 1723, in the 47th year of his age.

XXII.

Here lieth the body of WILLIAM ROYAL of North Yarmouth in the Province of Maine, who departed this life November the 7th, 1724, in the 85th year of his age.

This stone is erected to the pious memory of his Father by his eldest son Isaac, as the last act of a dutiful remembrance.

Here lies the body of the Honourable ISAAC ROYAL, Esq. who departed this life at his seat in Charlestown, June the 7th, Anno Domini, 1736, Ætatis 67. He was a gentleman of superior natural powers, and great acquired knowledge ; Civil, affable, courteous, and just to all men ; remarkably dutiful to his parents, kind to his relations, and charitable to the poor. He was a faithful husband, a tender father, a kind master, and a true friend. He delighted in doing good. He was highly esteemed and respected during his residence at Antigua, which was near 40 years, and advanced to the most honorable and important public employments civil and military, which he discharged with the highest

reputation and fidelity. He returned with his Family to New England, his native Country, July 27, 1737.

XXIII.

Here lies the body of Mr. HEZEKIAH MEROTH,* who died March 16, 1749, aged 74.

XXIV.

In memory of WILLIAM MARION, son of Mr. William and Mrs. Thankful Marion. He died December 11th, 1750, aged 3 years and 3 days.

XXV.

In memory of Mr. JAMES BAKER, who died Nov. 18, 1776, aged 64.

Preserve O grave inviolate thy trust,
Till life divine reanimates this dust.

XXVI.

Capt. ABRAHAM WHEELER, died June 20, 1778, aged 43.

How loved, how valued once, avails thee not,
To whom related, or by whom begot.

XXVII.

THOMAS CLAP, son of Mr. Ezra and Mrs. Mary Clap, died August 3, 1786 ; being still born.

XXVIII.

Mr. ISAAC FENNO, aged 32, died 1796.

O life, frail offspring of a day,
'Tis puff'd with one short gasp away.
Swift as the short-lived flower it flies,
It springs, it blooms, it fades, it dies.

XXIX.

From the grave-stone of Mr. THOMAS CLAP, who died August 11, 1798 ; aged 84.

* The name is now spelt Munroe.

“He supplied the office of Sexton from the year 1760 to 1797, making thirty-seven years ; and buried in that time 1080 persons.”*

XXX.

Taken from the grave-stone of a child of Mr. SOLOMON and Mrs. RACHAEL HALL, aged 10 months, died 1803.

Parents of children take a last adieu,
And so must children of their parents too.

XXXI.

Taken from the grave-stone of WILLIAM WILCOX, (South Burying-ground) who died in 1820, aged 39.

In business diligence with care he join'd,
In spirit fervor with his hope combin'd,
With sacred truth his life did well accord,
He serv'd the public while he serv'd the Lord.

* This is shown by the foregoing Table of Deaths ; but must include also the soldiers buried in 1775.

PART II.

“ And now each humble, narrow, nameless bed
Whose grassy hillock not in vain appeals
To eyes that pass by Epitaphs unread,
Rises to view.—How still the dwelling of the dead !
It is a scene that well may call me back,
If any could, to solemn, tender themes ;
Let me then once more turn me to the track
My thoughts were journeying : it is one that teems
With truths of high import,—not baseless dreams.”

BERNARD BARTON'S POEMS, p. 68.

Meditations in a Church Yard.

EPITAPHS AND INSCRIPTIONS.

[*Copied by myself from stones in several grave-yards in
different towns.*]

[Taken from Newbury burying ground April 23d, 1821, when employed to convey the body of Captain Isaac Greene Pierson to Newburyport.]

Mr. HENRY SEWALL, (sent by Mr. Henry Sewell, his father,) in the Ship *Eliza and Dorcas*, Capt. Watts Commander, arrived at Boston 1634, wintered at Ipswich, began this Plantation 1635, furnishing English servants, neat cattle and provisions ; married Miss Jane Plummer, March 25, 1646 ; died May 16, 1700, aged 86.

His fruitful vine being thus disjoined
Fell to the ground Jan. 13, following.

NEWBURYPORT.

Here lies the body of NICHOLAS PIKE, A. M., aged 76. Acting Magistrate from July 4, 1776, to the year 1819.

ROWLEY.

Here lies the body of Deacon JOSEPH CHAPLIN,
food for worms till the glorious resurrection morning.
Born 1752, died 1813.

MILTON.

In memory of Mr. JAZANIAH SUMNER, who died May
6, 1778, aged 66. Also his wife Mrs. Judith Sumner,
who died Nov. 15, 1790, aged 68.

So sleep the saints, and cease to groan,
When sin and death have done their worst,
Christ hath a glory like his own,
Which waits to clothe their waking dust.

II.

Miss MARY McCARNEY died Jan. 4. 1791, aged 20
years.

I sleep in darkness till that glorious day
When Christ my life shall roll the stone away ;
Prepare to meet me in the world above,
Where all shall join to sing redeeming love.

III.

Here lieth Deacon ROGER SUMNER, aged 66 years;
died May 26, 1691.

IV.

Here lieth the body of Mrs MARY WAYT, the wife of
Mr. Edward Wayt, aged 92, died Feb. 6, 1705.

V.

As corn maturely ripe is gathered home,
So his remains are brought into the tomb ;
To sleep in silence till that glorious day,
When Christ his life shall role the stone away.

ROXBURY, *Jamaica Plains.*

Mr. DAVID WHITE, aged 70, died 1816.

Death is a debt which I have paid ;
And soon with me you must be laid.

II.

On Mrs. MARY LETHBRIDGE, aged 32.—1818.

How blest the change to give a world like this,
For robes of glory, and a crown of bliss.

III.

On Mr. GULLIVER WINCHESTER, aged 79, died 1811.

This modest stone, what few vain marbles can,
With truth may say, here lies an honest man.

IV.

On Mr. GEORGE WOODS, who died 1815, aged 73.

Deprived of health, though e'er so long,
His patience good, his faith was strong.

V.

On Miss SARAH STURTEVANT, aged 5 years ; 1791.

And is the infant snatched away ?
Must all this beauty now decay ?
Must it no more delight our eyes,
Nor fill our souls with fond surprise.

VI.

MARY WOOD, aged 5, died 1795.

Just like a flower she was cut down,
While reason began to bud,
She early felt the stroke of death,
It was the will of God.

[From the Burying Ground in BOSTON, near the
Old Granery.]

On a tomb stone.

Mr. SAMUEL TORREY, died Sept. 6, 1748, aged 73.

“ SAMUEL TORREY, died July 15, 1766, aged 68.

“ SAMUEL TORREY, died Nov. 13, 1768, aged 42.

“ SAMUEL TORREY, died May 27, 1815, aged 57.

II.

Here lieth the body of ANNA SARCH, the wife of Mr.
John Sarch, aged 85, died May 11, 1674.

III.

Here lieth buried the body of Mr. JOHN WISWALL, servant of Jesus Christ, Elder of the first Church in Boston, aged 86 years : departed this life the 17th day of August, A. D. 1687.

IV.

MR JOHN DOWNING, aged about 53 years, deceased April 29, 1694.

I bargained with Christ for room below,
He grants me a mansion in his upper story,
Thus God gives more than we ask or know,
And instead of grace, uninterrupted glory.

V.

Here lies RICHARD BELLINGHAM, Esq. late Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts, who departed this life on the 11th day of December, 1672, in the 81st year of his age.

Virtue's fast friend within this tomb doth lie,
A foe to bribes, but rich in charity.

[The Bellingham Family being extinct, the Selectmen of Boston, in the year 1782, assigned this tomb to JAMES SULLIVAN, Esq.]

The remains of Governor Bellingham are here preserved, and the above inscription is restored from the ancient monument.]

The family tomb of JAMES SULLIVAN, Esq. late Governor and Commander in Chief of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, who departed this life on the 10th of December, A. D. 1808, aged 64 years. His remains are here deposited. During a life of remarkable industry, activity and usefulness ; amidst public and private contemporaneous avocations, uncommonly various, he was distinguished for zeal, intelligence and fidelity. Public spirited, benevolent, and social, he was eminently beloved as a man, eminently esteemed as a citizen, and eminently respected as a magistrate.

Hic versatile ingenium, sic pariter ad omnia fuit ; ut natum ad id unum diceres, quod cunque ageret.

[From the North Burying ground in Boston.]

I.

Here lieth the body of Mr. JOHN SWEET, aged 82 ;
died 25th of April, 1685.

II.

Here lieth the body of EDWARD GRANT, aged about
60, deceased the 12th of June, 1630.

III.

Mrs. ANN McMILLIAN, wife to Mr. James McMillian, deceased Feb. 28, 1805, aged 81.

Happy soul, thy days are ended,
All thy mourning days below ;
Go, by angel guards attended,
To the sight of Jesus go.

IV.

A Samuel returned to God
In Christ after a short abode,
On earth to shun earth's heinous crimes,
Was here well put to bed betimes.
The grave's as short as thou prepares,
Lest thy death comes at unawares.

V.

MARY the wife of CÆSAR AUGUSTUS, servant of Mr. THOMAS BALL, aged 25.

[From a tomb-stone.]

The Rev. Doctors INCREASE, COTTON, and SAMUEL MATHER, were interred in this vault.

'Tis the tomb of our fathers. H. Mather Crocker. Increase died April 27, 1723, aged 84. Cotton died February 13, 1727, aged 65. Samuel died June 27, 1785, aged 79.

Hodie mihi, cras tibi.

VI.

Here lies buried the body of Mr. OBADIAH GILL, deacon of the North Church in Boston, aged 50, deceased June 6, 1700.

VII.

MRS. LYDIA MASON, died 30th Dec. 1803, aged 29.

Her peaceful soul has fled,
From this vain world of sin ;
With her two infants dear are laid,
Soon to rise, never to fall again.

VIII.

[From a tomb stone.]

CHARLES JARVIS died Nov. 15, 1807, aged 59 years.
A Physician, a Statesman, a Patriot, and an honest
man ; whose dignified deportment, sublime eloquence,
unbounded philanthropy, and other virtues, endeared
his memory to his fellow-citizens.

IX.

MR. EDWARD BARBER, aged 80, June 9, 1677.

X.

THOMAS, son of EDWARD and MARTA CARNES, was
accidentally killed Dec. 22, 1818, aged 5 years.

Many are the shapes of death, and many are the
ways that lead to his grim cave. All dismal.

XI.

WILLIAM FRANCIS, of Connecticut, died June 26th,
1804, aged 20.

Like flowery fields youth blooming stands,
Pleased with the morning light ;
The flowers, beneath the mowers hands
Lie withering ere 'tis night.

XII.

Mrs. ALICE, relict of lieutenant WILLIAM HOWARD,
aged 72, deceased Nov. 18, 1681.

XIII.

MR. ROBERT FOWLE, died May 6. 1805, aged 63.

Death thou hast conquered me,
And by thy dart I'm slain ;
But Christ hath conquered thee,
And I shall rise again.

XIV.

Here rests the body of Mr. JOHN BUCKLEY, Jun. of Saddleworth, near Manchester, Old England, who deceased 23d August 1798, aged 23.

In peace here rests a traveller's dust,
His journey's at an end ;
He prized esteem amongst the just,
A censure from a friend.

Broke loose from Time's tenacious chains,
And earth's revolving gloom ;
To range at large in vast domains
Of radiant worlds to come.

ROXBURY, *East Burying Ground.*

Taken from a grave-stone, removed from the place where it stood, and piled with several others, and which measured five inches in thickness.

SAMUEL DUNKLIN, aged 6 w. died 28, 10th M. 1672.

II.

In memory of EDWARD DEVOTION, aged about 64 years ; died Sept. 28, 1685.

III.

On two children of OTIS and Mrs. RUTH GOULD, one died in 1799, and the other in 1807.

Farewell, sweet babes and take your rest,
God called you home, he thought it best.

IV.

On Mr. BENJAMIN THOMSON.

Sub spe immortalis : The herse of BENJAMIN THOMSON, learned School master and Physician, and the renowned poet of New England. Obiit Aprilis 13, Anno Domini. 1714, et ætatis, suæ 74. Mortuus sed immortalis.

V.

MARY, the daughter of BENJAMIN and ELIZABETH THOMSON, aged one year and six months 13 d. Died Sept. 10, 1716.

VI.

On Mrs. ELIZABETH CLAFTON, aged 20, died 1814.

When on her dying countenance was seen
A smile, the index of a soul serene.

VII.

Here lies buried the body of the Rev. SHEARJASHUB BOURNE, late minister of the first Parish in Scituate, and son of the Hon. Melatiah Bourne, Esq., of Sandwich, who died 14th August, 1768, æt. 69.

Cautious himself, he others ne'er deceived,
Lived as he taught, and taught as he believed.

CONCORD.

[Furnished to me by a young man, a relative, who resided at Concord.]

God wills us free ; Man wills us slaves. I will as
God wills, God's will be done.

Here lies the body of John Jack, a native of Africa, who died March, 1773, aged about 60 years. Though born in a land of slavery, he was born free ; though he lived in a land of liberty, he lived a slave, till by his honest, though stolen labours, he acquired the source of slavery, which gave him his freedom, though not long before his death. The grand tyrant gave him his final emancipation, and set him on a footing with kings. Though a slave to vice, he practised those virtues without which kings are but slaves.

QUINCY.

I.

Here lies the body of the Rev. Mr. Henry Flynt, who came to New England in the year 1635, was ordained the first Teacher of the Church of Braintry, 1639, and died 27th April, 1663. He had the character of a gentleman remarkable for his piety, learning, wisdom, and fidelity in his office.

By him, on his right hand, lies the body of Margery, his beloved consort, who died March, 1686-7. Her maiden name was Hoar. She was a gentlewoman of

piety, prudence, and peculiarly accomplished for instructing young gentlewomen, many being sent to her from other towns, especially from Boston.

Descendants of goodly families in Old England.

II.

Here lies buried the body of Joanna Quincy, the wife of Mr. Edmund Quincy, aged 55, died 16th May, 1680.

III.

[Inscription on the monumental stone to the memory of the Rev. Moses Fiske, of Braintree, who was ordained 11th Sept. 1672, and died 10th of August, 1708, in his 66th year.]

Braintree, thy prophet's gone ; this tomb inters
The Reverend Moses Fiske his sacred herse.
Adore heaven's praiseful art that formed the man,
Who souls, not to himself, but Christ oft wan ;
Sailed through the straits with Peter's family,
Renowned, and Gaius' hospitality ;
Paul's patience, James' prudence, John's sweet love,
Is landed, entered, cleared and crowned above.

IV.

Inscription on the Monument of the ever revered and learned Leonard Hoar, D. M. and sometime President of Harvard College, who died Nov. 28, 1675, aged 45.

Three precious friends under this tombstone lie,
Patterns to aged, youth, and infancy,
A great mother, her learned son, with's child,
The first and least went free, He was exiled.
In love to Christ, this country, and dear friends,
He left his own, crossed seas, and for amends,
Was here extolled, envied, all in a breath,
His noble consort leaves, is drawn to death.
Strange changes may befall us ere we die,
Blest they who well arrive at eternity.
God grant some names, O thou New England's friend,
Don't sooner fade than thine, if time's don't mend.

His aged and pious relict, the late Madam Usher, was brought hither from Boston, and interred in the same grave, according to her desire, May 30, 1723.

V.

Sacred to the memory of Josiah Quincy, jun. of Boston, Barrister of Law, youngest son of Josiah Quincy, Esq., late of this place. Brilliant talents, uncommon eloquence, and indefatigable application raised him to the highest eminence in his profession. His early, enlightened, inflexible attachment to the cause of his country is attested by monuments more durable than this, and transmitted to posterity by well known productions of his genius.

He was born the 23d of February, 1744, and died the 26th of April, 1775. His mortal remains are here deposited with those of Abigail, his wife, daughter of William Phillips, Esq., born the 14th of April, 1745, died the 25th March, 1793.

Stranger, in contemplating this monument as the frail tribute of filial gratitude and affection ;

Glows thy bold breast with patriotic flame ?

Let his example point the paths of fame !

Or seeks thy heart, averse from public strife,

The milder graces of domestic life ?

Her kindred virtues let thy soul revere,

And o'er the best of mothers drop a tear !

[On the other side of this monument is this inscription.]

Josiah Quincy, jun. Esq., born 23d Feb. 1744, died 26th April, 1775.

Abigail Quincy, born 14th April, 1745, died 25th March, 1793.

To their united and beloved memory, this monument was erected by their only surviving child, 1802.

VI.

On Dr. Benjamin Vinton, aged 38.—1813.

No pains, no grief, no anxious fear,

Invade thy bounds ; no mortal woes

Can reach the peaceful sleeper here,

Whilst angels watch his soft repose.

VII.

Mrs. Mary Brackett, aged 76, died 1805.

Sleep here awhile concealed in earth,
'Till the glad spring of nature's second birth ;
Then quit the transcient winter of the tomb,
To rise and flourish in immortal bloom.

VIII.

[Copy of an epitaph on the tombstone of Mr. Wm. H. Robins, who was buried at Cheraw, S. Carolina.]

My name—my country,—What is that to thee ?
What,—whether high or low my pedigree ?
Perhaps,—I far surpassed all other men !
Perhaps,—I fell below them all,—what then ?
Suffice it, stranger, that thou see'st a Tomb,—
Thou knowest its use,—it hides,—no matter whom.

The whole number of funerals attended by Mr. Dav-
enport, up to the 1st of February, 1845, was 1593.

LINES ADDRESSED TO A SEXTON.

[Written for the Sexton's Monitor, by Dr. Harris, a short time before his death, and addressed to Mr. Daniel Davenport.]

Come, honest Sexton, take thy spade,
And let my grave be quickly made.
Thou still art ready for the dead
Like a kind host to make their bed.
I now am come to be thy guest,
In some dark lodging give me rest :
I'm very weary, full of pain,
And of my pilgrimage complain.
On heaven's decree I waiting lie,
And all my wishes are to die.
Soon shall be heard my passing bell,
Farewell, my loving friends, farewell.

CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS

“When I look upon the tombs of the great, every motion of envy dies within me. When I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out. When I meet with the grief of parents on a tombstone, my heart melts with compassion. When I see the tombs of parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom we must quickly follow. When I see rivals placed side by side on the same low level, and those that divided the world by their contests and disputes, now humble and peaceable,—I reflect with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions, factions and debates of mankind. When I read the several dates on the tombs, of some that died as yesterday, and some centuries ago, I consider that great day, when we shall all of us be contemporaries, and make our appearance together.”





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